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meridian circle, and noted the times of all tremors. Mr. BARNARD directed the 12-inch equatorial on a distant mark, and did the same. I mounted a sensitive level suitably, and watched the variations of its bubble.

Professor GEORGE, at San Jose, kept a lookout on the pen of the Seismometer of the University of the Pacific. The time of the explosion in San Francisco was noted for us by two observers, through the kindness of Hon. GEORGE H. SANDERSON, Mayor of San Francisco, and of J. O'B. GUNN, Esq., of the Union Iron Works. Mr. GUNN's recorded time was $2^h 24^m 35\frac{1}{8}^s$. The explosive used was, in fact, not *dynamite* at all (as reported) but common black blasting powder, and no shock was noticed, either at San José or Mt. Hamilton. It is possible that this negative result is worth recording.

E. S. H.

MAGNETIC CONSTANTS AT MOUNT HAMILTON.

The following letter is printed by the kind permission of Professor MENDENHALL, Chief of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. The station referred to is locally known as "The Camp Ground."

The results of the magnetic observations made on the summit of Mt. Hamilton and to the eastward of the Observatory, in latitude $37^{\circ} 20' 30''$ and in longitude $121^{\circ} 38' 16''$ W., are as follows:

1888. Oct. 28, 29, 30. Declination $15^{\circ} 50'.4$ East
" " " Dip $61^{\circ} 52'.1$
Horizontal intensity 5.580 English Units, or 0.2573 dyne.
Total intensity, 11.836 English Units, or 0.5457 dyne.

The observations were made by R. A. MARR, late Assistant Coast and Geodetic Survey.

[Signed]

C. A. SCHOTT,

Assistant in charge Computing Division.

COMPUTING DIVISION, COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,
WASHINGTON, D. C., January 26, 1891.

WHO DISCOVERED THE OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF LENSES?

PACIFIC CHEMICAL WORKS, 718 MONTGOMERY ST., }
SAN FRANCISCO, October 27, 1890. }

PROF. E. S. HOLDEN, Mt. Hamilton.

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of your letter dated October 15th, and at your request have copied the whole of Chapter XXVI, containing the reference to HOSTIUS, the ancient optician.* Thinking that Chapter LI might interest you, I have had that copied also.

* Which Professor HANKS was the first to find and to which he had called my attention.